

THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

1909 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

November 1, 1978

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

The Central Intelligence Agency is recognized as a center of scholarly attainment and learned endeavors, which contributes to the intellectual life of the Washington area. The Philosophical Society of Washington is the century-old, yet vigorous, professional organization that bridges all specialties. Persons in your position can do a great deal to strengthen these intellectual links just by membership in the Society, and I am sure you would also derive personal satisfaction. I invite you to join.

As you can see from the enclosed schedule, meetings are held on alternate Friday evenings to hear timely addresses in a wide variety of disciplines. Meetings have long been at the Cosmos Club, now in its John Wesley Powell Auditorium. We invite you and your associates to visit our meetings.

I hope you will join us in our efforts to broaden and strengthen the base of the Washington intellectual community by completing and submitting the enclosed membership application. I and two of my colleagues will be glad to sponsor you. Membership fees are only \$16 per year. Those joining in the fall are billed for the coming calendar year.

We similarly extend an invitation of membership to those of your principal staff for whom you provide names, either at the above address or by telephoning me at 224-7031.

We look forward to your involvement with the Philosophical Society of Washington.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Leachman
Membership Chairman

RBL/cfd

Enc: History
Schedule
Application Form

The Philosophical Society of Washington

Founded in 1871

JOHN WESLEY POWELL AUDITORIUM

Cosmos Club, 2170 Florida Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

1978-1979 SEASON—FIRST HALF

8:15 P.M.

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

October 13 **Rita J. Adrosko**, Smithsonian Institution

“Weaving and the Computer”

October 27 **Paul Edward Garber**, National Air and Space Museum

“Thirteen Famous Aircraft”

November 17 **Robert B. Leachman**, Office of Technology Assessment

“The Quandary of Atomic Wastes”

December 1 **T. Leo van Winkle**, The Catholic University of America

“For the Energy-Conscious: Cotton or Polyester Clothing?”

December 15 **Joseph Hilsenrath**, National Bureau of Standards

“The Race for Einstein’s Early Manuscripts”

*January 12 **George T. Armstrong**, Retiring President’s Address

“200 Years of Calorimetry”

*All meetings start at 8:15 p.m. except the Retiring President’s Address which begins at 8:30 p.m.

Meetings are followed by Social Hour with beer and cider

For information on membership, please contact:

Robert B. Leachman, Membership Chairman
Office of Technology Assessment
U.S. Congress
Washington, D. C. 20510
224-8701

The Philosophical Society of Washington

PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

_____, 19____

Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss)_____

Preferred mailing address_____

Present affiliation_____

Professional training:

Professional experience:

Membership Committee

Sponsors

Chairman_____

Elected_____, 19____

Membership in the Philosophical Society is open to all persons who are interested in the objects for which the Society was incorporated, which are "the promotion of science, the advancement of learning, and the free exchange of views among its members on scientific subjects."

Elections to membership are made in accordance with the following sections of Article III of the By-Laws of the General Committee:

Section 1. A nomination for membership in the Society shall be addressed to the General Committee, signed by three members of the Society, and accompanied by a statement of the qualifications of the candidate.

Sec. 2. Election to membership in the Society shall be by ballot at a regular meeting of the General Committee, a two-thirds majority of those present being necessary for election.

Sec. 3. Two months shall be allowed a newly-elected member to qualify by paying his dues, for which a bill shall be sent by the Treasurer.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Philosophical Society of Washington was founded on March 13, 1871, and was incorporated on May 20, 1901, in the District of Columbia. The aims for which the Society was incorporated are "the promotion of science, the advancement of learning, and the free exchange of views among its members on scientific subjects."

Since March 26, the date of the 300th meeting of the Society, the meeting place has been the Assembly Hall of the Cosmos Club, except on special occasions. Prior to the organization of the Cosmos Club in 1878 and for some nine years thereafter, meetings were held in the library of the Surgeon General's Office Old Ford's Theater, where Lincoln was assassinated.

According to a history written by F. N. Frenkiel, "During the first years of the Society the leading themes of the communications were astronomy, geography, physics, and biology. Geology, meteorology, and anthropology gained the floor of the Society during these beginnings owing to the rapid growth of the Geological Survey, the Weather Bureau, and the Bureau of Ethnology." The nature of the meetings changed when more specialized scientific societies sprang from the Philosophical Society. The Anthropological Society was organized in 1879, the Biological Society in 1880, and the Chemical Society in 1884. A Mathematical Section within the Society held sixty-nine meetings. Frenkiel says, "The Philosophical Society, which had started by including all fields of science in its scope, became more closely identified with the physical and mathematical sciences, geophysics, and biophysics, although it has never taken the character of a specialized society."

Meetings are now held usually on alternate Friday evenings from October to May in the John Wesley Powell Auditorium of the Cosmos Club. Following the scheduled program for the evening, opportunity is given for the presentation of informal communications. Refreshments are served following adjournment of meetings. With the exception of business transacted at the Annual Meeting in December, the Society is managed by the General Committee composed of the elected officers of the Society, four elected members-at-large, the latest two living ex-presidents of the Society and members of the Committee on Communications. Regular meetings of the General Committee are held before each regular meeting of the Society.

In 1931 the Society inaugurated the Joseph Henry Lectures sponsored annually (except 1943) by the Society in honor of its first president.

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